

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AF-04 NEA-06 SAM-01 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 NIC-01 ACDA-05 /095 W

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R 050948Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4837

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29123

GENEVA FOR US CSCE DEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, PO, FR

SUBJECT: US-EC CONSULTATIONS - PORTUGAL

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REF: STATE 262518

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE OF US-EC CONSULTATIONS, QUAI OFFICIAL ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL US VIEWS ON SITUATION IN PORTUGAL, AND CURRENT US READING OF SITUATION IN SPAIN. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH REPLY TO PASS TO FRENCH EC PRESIDENCY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH DE MARGERIE (QUAI DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS), POLCOUNSELOR DREW ON COMMENTS CONTAINED IN PARA 3-D OF REFTEL CONCERNING PORTUGAL. IN RESPONSE TO POLCOUNSELOR'S PRESENTATION, AND REFERRING TO OUR STATEMENT THAT WE HAVE BEEN FRANK IN EXPRESSING TO PORTUGAL'S LEADERS OUR CONCERN REGARDING THE INFLUENCE OF THE COMMUNISTS AND OTHER FAR-LEFTISTS IN CERTAIN SENSITIVE SECTORS, DE MARGERIE ASKED HOW HAD THE PORTUGUESE LEADERSHIP REACTED TO THIS EXPRESSION OF US CONCERN? POLCOUNSELOR SAID THAT WE WERE NOT INFORMED OF PORTUGUESE RESPONSE, BUT THAT WE WOULD SEEK INFORMATION FROM WASHINGTON ON WHICH TO BASE A RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION. DE MARGERIE SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE EC NINE TO KNOW THE PORTUGUESE RESPONSE IN ORDER TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. HAS OUR DEMARCHE WITH THE PORTUGUESE HAD ANY POSITIVE EFFECT? HE ASKED, OR, ON THE CONTRARY, HAS IT PRODUCED A NATIONALISTIC REACTION AMONG THE PORTUGUESE THAT COULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE? DE MARGERIE ALSO WONDERED IF A REDUCTION IN US "AID" (HIS TERM) TO PORTUGAL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AZORES AGREEMENT OR THE POSSIBLE ABSENCE OF U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, MIGHT LEAD TO A NATIONALISTIC PORTUGUESE REACTION HARMFUL TO WESTERN INTERESTS. HE ALSO ASKED HOW LONG WE EXPECT THE NEGOTIATIONS TO LAST ON THE AZORES BASE AGREEMENT. ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF PORTUGAL'S POLICIES, HE ASKED WHETHER WE HAVE A GENERAL FEELING FOR THE DIRECTION THAT THE GOP IS TAKING. POLCOUNSELOR RESPONDED THAT CURRENT PORTUGUESE POLICIES SEEM TO BE DESCRIBED BY THREE PRINCIPLES: FIRST, NO RETURN TO RIGHT WING, TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENT; SECOND, VAGUE CONCEPT OF ACHIEVING "SOCIAL DEMOCRACY" IN PORTUGAL; AND THIRD, AVOID DRIFT TOO FAR LEFT, ALTHOUGH THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO FEEL THE NEED FOR A CONFIDENTIAL

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"LEAN" TO THE LEFT TO COMPENSATE FOR HALF CENTURY OF EXTREME RIGHT REGIMES.

3. DE MARGERIE ALSO INQUIRED WHETHER POLCOUNSELOR HAD ANY RECENT INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN SPAIN. POLCOUNSELOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT THAT HE WOULD TRANSMIT DE MARGERIE'S REQUEST TO WASHINGTON.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS POSED BY DE MARGERIE CONCERNING PORTUGAL AND SPAIN. WE RECOMMEND THAT WASHINGTON PROVIDE US WITH SUBSTANTIVE MATERIAL ON WHICH TO BASE A REPLY TO DE MARGERIE'S QUESTIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS29123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740352-1137
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741258/aaaabxgy.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 262518
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 APR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-EC CONSULTATIONS - PORTUGAL CONFIDENTIAL
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO, FR, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005